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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

directing a call intended for a mobile to a virtual tandem switch;

querying, by the virtual tandem switch, a home location register to obtain call information for the mobile;

converting control messages at a first location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol;

converting voice messages at a first location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol;

converting control messages at a second location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol;

converting voice messages at a second location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol; and

setting up the call to the mobile over a packet-based transport network.

2. (Canceled)

2 ~~2~~. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the step of converting non-packet-based protocol voice messages at a first location comprises converting a time division multiplexed protocol.

3 ~~3~~. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the call is directed to the mobile while the mobile is roaming ~~from~~ away from its home service area.

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⁶ 5. (Original) A switch comprising:

a first converter arranged and constructed to convert control messages between a packet-based protocol and a first protocol, wherein the first converter is located at a first geographic location;

a second converter arranged and constructed to convert voice messages between a packet-based protocol and a first protocol, wherein the second converter is located at the first geographic location;

a third converter arranged and constructed to convert control messages between a packet-based protocol and a second protocol, wherein the third converter is located at a second geographic location;

a fourth converter arranged and constructed to convert voice messages between a packet-based protocol and a second protocol, wherein the fourth converter is located at the second geographic location;

such that the switch provides a gateway between the public switched telephone network and a wireless network.

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⁷ 6. (Original) The switch of claim ⁶ 5, wherein the first protocol is an ISDN User Part signalling protocol and the second protocol is a time division multiplexed protocol.

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⁸ 7. (Original) The switch of claim ⁶ 5, further comprising a network feature server, arranged and constructed to provide network routing between the converters.

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9 ~~8~~. (Original) The switch of claim ~~5~~⁶, further comprising a switch management system, arranged and constructed to provide operation, administration, and provisioning of the converters of the switch.

4 ~~9~~. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of converting the non-packet-based protocol voice messages at a second location comprises converting a time division multiplexed protocol.

5 ~~10~~. (New) the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of routing at least one of the control messages and voice messages between the first and the second locations with a network feature server.

10 ~~11~~. (New) A method of providing a gateway between a public switched telephone network and a wireless network comprising the steps of:

converting control messages at a first location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol;

converting voice messages at a first location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol;

converting control messages at a second location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol; and

converting voice messages at a second location, between a packet-based protocol and a non-packet-based protocol;

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11 ¹⁰ ~~12~~. (New) The method of claim ~~11~~, wherein the step of converting the non-packet-based protocol voice messages at a first location comprises converting a time division multiplexed protocol.

12 ¹⁰ ~~13~~. (New) The method of claim ~~11~~, wherein the step of converting the non-packet-based protocol voice messages at a second location comprises converting a time division multiplexed protocol.

13 ¹⁰ ~~14~~. (New) the method of claim ~~11~~, further comprising the step of routing at least one of the control messages and voice messages between the first and the second locations with a network feature server.